

read 9/23/92
discussed 9/23/92

Puppet Songs #4 - Sean Kelly
Could be ~~documentary~~
like the goofy documentaries

a bit thin / short

add more aspects to the documentary

describe them by roles - it's very important

- focus on individuals

for the drummer

- tuning up ~~the~~ / warming up / to maintain
playing a solo. "steady beat
are never to take over

- more humor of visual being inconsistent
with ~~audios~~

(e.g. Didi maintains her composure
while playing
Tex & Rex - never compete
with one another
delirious - dueling
santas)

betcha can't play this lick

Grace -

also multi cultural

→ like the ~~international~~ theme

perhaps spanish

perhaps Hawaii

perhaps Cajun

perhaps cowboy

Very nice ~~documentary~~ premise -

documentary of juke box people

SHINING TIME STATION

"PUPPET SCRIPT #4"

"A DAY IN THE LIFE"

BY SEAN KELLY

From characters and storylines created by
Britt Allcroft and Rick Siggelkow

SECOND DRAFT
SEPTEMBER 21, 1992

SCENE 1

(SLOW PAN AROUND STATION COMING TO REST ON JUKEBOX)

VO:

Of all the astonishing creatures with whom we share our world, perhaps none is more beloved... or more misunderstood... than the species scientists call "The Little People Who Live Inside Jukeboxes".

(SLOW PUSH INTO JUKEBOX)

(DISSOLVE TO: JUKEBOX INTERIOR... THE BASEMENT... TITO'S VAULT...)

(DISCOVER SLEEPING TITO [IN PAJAMAS]... EXTREME CU TITO)

Here, in the area of Shining Time Station known as The Arcade, it is barely dawn when our camera discovers the sleeping leader of one particular band. Shhh.

(WHISPER)

as a band leader need to
His name is Tito Swing. Tito is known to be a master of all keyboard instruments; a composer, conductor and collector of nickels. We can only imagine what peaceful dreams he must have...

("DREAM" EFFECTS DISSOLVE TO:)

✓

Dream

✓

versatile
one of the most ~~funny~~
jukebox bands ~~in the~~
~~country~~ to be found
anywhere in the country

this band leader

discreet and enthusiasm

-to very ingenuous that

SCENE 2
(TRAIN SET)

(SONG -- JESSE JAMES)

(WHOLE CAST "ACTS OUT" SONG... TITO,
WEARING A BANDANA MASK AND WAVING
SIX-GUNS, PLAYS JESSE JAMES)

("DREAM EFFECTS DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 3
(JUKEBOX BASEMENT)

VO:

It is now 6:00 a.m., the time when Little People Who Live in the Jukebox rouse themselves from their night time slumber.

(LOWER 1/3 CLOCK READING 6:00.
TITO'S ALARMS CLOCK RINGS LOUDLY...
MAYBE JUMPS AROUND... TITO REACHES OUT AND SLAMS IT. RINGING STOPS.
TITO SNUGGLES BACK DOWN)

J.J. (VO):

Tito! Tito, baby! Rise 'n' shine! Up 'n' at 'em! It's show time.

(TITO SITS UP WITH A START. J.J.
SILVER STANDS OVER HIM)

TITO:

Cool it, J.J. I'm awake.
I'm just resting my eyes...

SCENE 4

(J.J. ENTERS THE ELEVATOR... WE TRAVEL WITH HIM)

VO:

One member of every band of Little People Who LIve in Jukeboxes is known as "The Band Manager." His usefulness remains a mystery to this day...



SCENE 5
(DRESSING ROOM)

(ELEVATOR STOPS AT DRESSING ROOM LEVEL. J.J. STARES INTO DRESSING ROOM WHERE REX, TEX, DIDI AND GRACE ARE GETTING READY FOR THE DAY...)

VO:

This Band Manager is
called "J.J."
named
J.J.:

(VERY EXCITED)

Let's go, people! It's
magic time! Curtain up!
Let's go-go-GO!

ALL:

(VERY CASUAL)

Hi, J.J.... Good morning,
J.J.... Later, J.J....
(etc.)

*meaning
Explanation*

We believe the origin of
the letters JJ have
something to do with
10th letter of the
alphabet.

SCENE 6

(ON THE ELEVATOR, J.J. CONTINUES UP TO THE STAGE AREA, WHERE HE PACES AROUND, STARING NERVOUSLY)

(LOWER 1/3: 6:15)

VO:

It is now 6:15 in the morning, and something he sees in the station seems to have Manager J.J. even more than usually excited...

(J.J.'S POV FROM JUKEBOX INTERIOR... IN STATION, A CUSTOMER -- MAYBE A WOMAN COMMUTER WITH A BRIEFCASE -- APPROACHES THE JUKEBOX. ZOOM IN ON NICKEL IN HER HAND)

He has spotted his natural prey... a human being with a nickel.

(ANGLE ON HAND DEPOSITING COIN IN SLOT)

J.J.:

This is it. This is it!
Where is everybody?

(NICKEL MAKES ITS WAY DOWN CHUTE, WHILE J.J. DASHES AROUND FRANTICALLY)

J.J.:

What song did she pick?
Number 17. "Michael Row the Boat Ashore". What am I gonna do?

(EXTERIOR JUKEBOX)

(COMMUTER STARES AT JUKEBOX, GIVES IT A SERIES OF LITTLE SMACKS)

SCENE 6 (CONT'D)

COMMUTER:

Is this thing broken or something?

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(IT SHAKES AS IF IN A MINI-EARTHQUAKE, AS J.J. APPROACHES THE STS MICROPHONE)

J.J.:

Okay, keep your hat on, lady. Gotta do everything around here myself... Ahem...

have
lady wear hat.

(HE BEGINS TO SING, SOFTLY AND BADLY)

Michael, row the boat...

GRACE (OS):

We got it, J.J.!

(SONG -- MICHAEL ROW THE BOAT ASHORE)

(INTERCUT COMMUTER STANDING NEAR JUKEBOX, EYES CLOSED, DIGGING THE MUSIC)

SCENE 7

(ESTABLISH BUSINESS AS PASSENGERS CROSS, SIT, STAND, HURRY... TO JUKEBOX EXTERIOR AND DISSOLVE TO INTERIOR)

(GRAPHIC: 7:30)

VO:

It's now 7:30, and the station is getting busy. Strangely, the other inhabitants of the world of Shining Time Station seem unaware of these Little People Who Live in the Jukebox.

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(THE PUPPETS ARE EXERCISING... TOUCHING TOES, DOING PUSH UPS, SIT UPS, ETC... WHILE J.J. WALKS AMONG THEM LIKE A GYM TEACHER)

VO:

In order to survive, these tiny creatures must remain keen of eye, quick of hand, and physically fit.

J.J.:

And one and two... remember, no pain, no nickels... up! Up! Tex. Rex. Get the lead out. Grace, Didi... go for the burn.

B more, S more,

DIDI:

J.J., I'm sick of these exercises.

J.J.:

You've gotta stay in shape, kid.

SCENE 7 (CONT'D)

GRACE:

Well, why don't we play playing
some kind of game?

J.J.:

Like for instance?

TITO:

Monopoly!

REX:

No, partner -- a sport!

TEX;

I have a hankering for
baseball!

ALL (ad lib):

Yeah! Baseball! Okay!
Batter up! (etc....)

J.J.:

You play. I'll keep
score.

(SONG -- TAKE ME OUT TO THE
BALL GAME)

SCENE 8
(INT. JUKEBOX)

(HAPPY PUPPETS IN BASEBALL GEAR
SPRAWL AROUND)

TITO:

That was fun! And I dig
that crazy song!

DIDI:

Me, too. You know, Tito,
I bet it would make a
totally fabulous
singalong.

TITO:

You think so, Did? Let's
give it a try... Ready,
everyone?

✓

(SONG -- TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL
GAME -- SING-ALONG VERSION)

SCENE 9

(INT. JUKEBOX -- DRESSING ROOM)

(ALL THE PUPPETS ARE GATHERED WITH PLATES OF COOKIES AND GLASSES OF MILK. RELAXING, CHATTING [MOS[. CAMERA MOVES AROUND AND IN FOR ARBITRARY CLOSEUPS, DOCUMENTARY STYLE)

VO:

In mid-morning, the Little People perform bizarre ritual scientists call "a milk and cookie break." Curiously, although they inhabit a train station, they have abandoned the urge to travel. But the memory of their years on the road remains strong.

(DIDI AND GRACE ARE TALKING...)

DIDI:

Hey, Grace -- remember being on the road?

GRACE:

Travellin' from town to town, goin' places, movin' on... Those were the days.

DIDI:

What was your favorite trip?

GRACE:

Are you kidding, girlfriend? From NYC down south to Chatanooga. Uh-huh!

28

DIDI:

Yeah! That was the ginchy-est!

("MEMORY" EFFECTS DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

(SONG -- CHATANOOGA CHOO CHOO)

SCENE 10
(INT. JUKEBOX)

(J.J. STARING OUT OF INTO STATION)

J.J.:

Places, everyone!
Places, everyone!
Customer approaching...
Stand by for incoming
nickel!

(JUKEBOX EXTERIOR)

(PASSENGER, A BOY GAZES CAREFULLY
AT JUKEBOX, DEPOSITS COIN -- PAUSE
-- DEPOSITS SECOND COIN)

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(TWO NICKELS ROLL DOWN CHUTE. TITO
GOES NUTS)

TITO:

It's two! Two nickels!
A double feature, a twin
bill! I love that kid,
Okay, let's hit it! One,
two...

(SONG -- RAILROAD CARES ARE COMING)

(SONG -- TENNESSEE CENTRAL)

SCENE 11

(INT. JUKEBOX -- THE BASEMENT VAULT)

(TITO SITS AMIDST A HEAP OF NICKELS, LOOKING AT THEM, ENJOYING THEM...)

(DISSOLVE TO STAGE, WHERE DIDI, TITO, GRACE, THE BOYS AND J.J. ARE GATHERED AT A TABLE EATING LUNCH)

VO:

Each day at noon, the Little People Who Live in Jukeboxes eat lunch. The leader, Tito, apparently enjoys a diet of nickels... but the other members of the band consume normal food...

[no]

REX:

These barbecue~~d~~ jelly beans are de-lish, Tex.

✓

TEX:

I used your recipe, Rex.

REX:

No wonder, then, Tex

GRACE:

More gum drop ~~soup~~, J.J.?

another sandwich

sandwich

J.J.:

Well, maybe another slice, ^{just a half} thank you, Grace...

?

DIDI:

Does anyone want another glass of fish milk?

butterfly milk

milkasoda

banana

carrot juice

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

REX:

Yes, please.

(REX BURPS)

'scuse me.

TEX:

Rex, I think you've had enough.

DIDI:

Hey, where's my man,
Tito?

J.J.:

Still downstairs counting his nickels, I suppose.
Oh-oh!

DIDI:

What?

J.J.:

Here comes another music lover...

(JUKE BOX EXTERIOR)

(A MEXICAN WOMAN APPROACHES THE JUKEBOX, READS THE PLAY LIST, DEPOSITS A COIN)

J.J. (OS):

I'll go get Tito.

DIDI (OS):

Wait. Maybe we can do this one without him.

TEX (OS):

Oh-oh.

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

REX (OS):

She picked "Celito
Lindo."

GRACE (OS):

That's Tito's song.
Tito!

ALL:

(SHOUTING)

Tito! Tito!

(JUKEBOX EXTERIOR)

(THE MEXICAN WOMAN STARES, PUZZLED,
AT THE JUKEBOX. GIVE IT A GENTLE
SMACK OR TWO)

MEXICAN WOMAN:

!Calle, que
verquenza!

? what a —
in elevator?

(TITO RIDES UP THROUGH THUMPS AND
TREMORS, AS THE GANG CALLS TO HIM)

ALL (OS):

(AD LIB)

Tito! Hey Tito! Get up
here! (etc...)

(JUKEBOX EXTERIOR)

(MEXICAN WOMAN SHRUGS, TURNS
AWAY... TURNS BACK AS SONG BEGINS,
SMILES...)

SCENE 12

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(THE PUPPETS ARE REHEARSING...
GRACE STANDS BESIDE DIDI, PLUCKING
WHILE DIDI BANGS AWAY... REX AND
TEX ARE TALKING AS THEIR HANDS MOVE
AROUND THE GUITAR... J.J. STANDS
BESIDE TITO WHO IS SHOWING HIM
SOMETHING ON THE KEYBOARD)

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

(WE HEAR TUNING UP SOUNDS, SCALES,
RUNS, ETC. IN BG)

VO:

Making music comes naturally to the Little People Who Live in Jukeboxes; it seems to be as instinctive as the courting dance of a stork or the song of the skylark...

We.

TITO:

See, it's an E flat minor with diminuendo.

an opportunity
to describe each by
their roles.

GRACE:

So in the release we change to a 5-4 tempo, right?

perhaps with humor thru
inconsistencies between
~~audio~~ narrative and
visuals.

TEX:

And then I'll do the tenor harmony on the chorus, okay?

J.J.:

People. People. Let's try to get it right this time.

TITO:

Okay, everyone, let's take it from the top.

(SONG -- POLLYWOLLY DOODLE)

SCENE 13
(INT. JUKEBOX)

TITO:

So what do you think, J.J.

J.J.:

Terrific. Sensational.
Super.

(PAUSE)

But...

GRACE:

But?

J.J.:

Will it work as a
singalong?

DIDI:

Are you kidding? Of
course it's work as a
singalong. 

(PAUSE)

Won't it, Tito?

TITO:

Only one way to find out.
And one and two and one...

(SONG -- POLLYWOLLY DOODLE
SINGALONG)

SCENE 14
(MAINSET)

LOWER 1/3 GRAPHIC READS 3:00. VERY LITTLE ACTION. SOMEONE SITTING ON A BENCH READS A PAPER... CAMERA SLOWLY MOVES TO JUKEBOX AND DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE 15
(INT. JUKEBOX)

(THE PUPPETS SPRAWL, DOZING... DIDI AT HER DRUMS. TITO AT HIS PIANO. SNORING SOUNDS)

VO:

Mid-afternoon, and a calm silence uncannily envelopes the station, including the secluded world of the Little People Who Live in the Jukebox. They doze securely in the knowledge that nothing can disturb their tranquil siesta...

(LOUDLY, A COIN DROPS INTO THE SLOT. J.J. JUMPS UP, RUNS AROUND WAKING THE OTHERS)

J.J.:

Tito, Didi, Grace, boys!
Surprise nickel!
Surprise nickel! A music lover.
A paying customer. C'mon!

DIDI:

What number, Tito?

TITO:

It's 27, Didi. Sweet
Betsy. Ready, Tex?

TEX:

Roger.

TITO:

Ready, Rex?

REX:

Wilco.

TITO:

Then let's do it.

SCENE 16

(EXT. JUKEBOX)

(A JAMAICAN MAN [DRESSED APPROPRIATELY] STANDS BY THE JUKEBOX PERUSING THE PLAY LIST UNTIL HE HAPPILY MAKES A SELECTION)

JAMAICAN:

Mmm... mmm... oh, yeah.
Cool runnings, mon!

SCENE 17
(INT. JUKEBOX)

(COIN DROPS DOWN. TITO SCOOTS OVER TO COLLECT IT. EXAMINES IT)

TITO:

Hold it, everybody. This isn't a real nickel.

(J.J. AND GRACE JOIN HIM TO SCRUTINIZE THE COIN)

J.J.:

You mean it's fake? It's a slug? Why of all the... I oughta...

GRACE:

But guys, it's a real coin. It's just from another country. Yeah -- look -- it's from Jamaica.

TITO:

Oh. That's okay then. Everybody? One-two, one-two...

(SONG -- JAMAICA FAREWELL)

be excited

for my collection

It's a real

coin from
the country of Jamaica

2nd one that we've
~~had~~ that was a
missing from our
collection

SCENE 18
(MAINSET)

(GRAPHIC READS 6:00. PEOPLE BUSTLE OUT TO TRAINS. A TRAIN ROARS BY OUTSIDE, AND ITS LIGHTS FLASH. PAN AGAIN TO JUKEBOX)

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 19
(INT. JUKEBOX)

VO:

As evening falls, Shining Time Station comes to life once more, as herds of migrating humans thunder home to dinner, blissfully unaware of the band of Little People lurking nearby in the Jukebox, hovering over their day's collection of nickels.

(REX, TEX, DIDI AND GRACE WATCH AS J.J. AND TITO COUNT THE DAY'S TAKE -- A HEAP OF COINS)

GRACE:

That's a lot of nickels!

J.J.:

...thirteen, fourteen...

DIDI:

So how'd we do today,
J.J.?

J.J.:

Didi, don't interrupt.
Now I've gotta start over. One, two...

TITO:

But don't forget there's a Jamaican coin in there --- and the Mexican lady used a Mexican coin...

J.J.:

And one of these nickels is Canadian.

DIDI:

Hey, totally cool!



SCENE 19 (CONT'D)

(AT THE SOUND OF ANOTHER COIN DROPPING, ALL LOOK UP. IT LANDS AND TITO POUNCES ON IT)

J.J.:

I wonder where this one comes from...

REX:

Maybe it's even American.

TITO:

It's not just ^{a regular} American ~~nickel~~ —
it's a genuine American
Buffalo Nickel! Look!

DIDI:

Oh, wow!

TEX:

Gives me a patriotic
kinda tingle all over!

REX:

Makes me wanna salute!

TITO:

Well what do you say?
Let's strike up the band!

(SONG - PATRIOTIC MEDLY)

SCENE 20 (CONT'D)

(MAINSET)

(DARK. GRAPHIC LOWER 1/3 READS
8:00. CAMERA WANDERS. DISCOVERS
CLOSED SIGN ON TICKET BOOTH, EMPTY
BENCHES, ETC. IN ON STILL-LIT
JUKEBOX. DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 21

(INT. JUKEBOX -- DRESSING ROOM)

VO:

Night has fallen, bringing to an end another day in the lives of those exotic creatures, The Little People Who Live in Jukeboxes. Because they are anything but nocturnal, they all fall asleep at the first sign of darkness...

(WHISPER)

and so we bid them and you a quiet "goodnight."

(THE PUPPETS ARE INDEED IN THEIR PAJAMAS BUT WIDE AWAKE)

J.J.:

Okay, everybody. Beddy-bye. We've got a big day tomorrow.

GRACE:

Didi, are you sleepy?

DIDI:

Like, totally not.

REX:

Neither am I.

TEX:

That goes double.

GRACE:

Let's tell scary stories.

J.J.:

People, people, please!

Better lead in
needed

of midnight Special

at about midnight

Goodnight scene

SCENE 21 (CONT'D)

TITO:

Let's do a scary song.

ALL:

(AD LIB)

Yeah! Okay. Let's...
(etc.)

(SONG -- MIDNIGHT SPECIAL)

Let's say goodnight
Let's say goodnight

Goodnight Deon